



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **STARK CONTRAST HOLDS OFF REMEMBER MAMBA IN GRADE I AMERICAN TURF**

LOUISVILLE, KY (Saturday, May 2, 2026) – Amerman Racing Stables’ homebred **Stark Contrast** blew past **Honey Dutch** at the eighth pole and then held off a late bid from **Remember Mamba** by 2 ¼ lengths to win the 35th running of the \$1 million American Turf (GI) presented by the United Football League for 3-year-olds Saturday afternoon.

Trained by **Michael McCarthy** and ridden by **Flavien Prat**, Stark Contrast completed the mile and a sixteenth over a firm Matt Winn Turf Course in a stakes-record 1:40.31. It is the fourth win in the race for Prat with previous victories coming with **Zulu Kingdom (IRE)** last year, **Stolen Base** in 2022 and **Du Jour** in 2021.

Honey Dutch took over the lead on the backstretch from **Street Beast** and carried a daylight advantage into the stretch. Stark Contrast launched his bid with a five-wide move at the head of the lane, took over at midstretch and cruised home.

Stark Contrast is a Kentucky-bred son of Caravaggio out of the Quality Road mare Catch the Eye. Now a three-time stakes winner, Stark Contrast has a record of 7-4-2-0 with earnings of \$1,066,060 that includes Saturday’s \$573,360 check.

Sent off as the favorite, Stark Contrast returned \$4.40, \$2.88 and \$2.46. Remember Mamba, ridden by **Jose Ortiz**, returned \$4.18 and \$3.08 and finished 1 ½ lengths ahead of Honey Dutch who paid \$4.56 to show under **Tyler Gaffalione**.

It was another 2 ¼ lengths back to **Alpyland** who was followed in order by **Blinging It Back**, **Let’s Be Frank**, **Black Hornet**, **Vasy (IRE)**, **Steel Imperium**, **Greenwich Village**, Street Beast, **Thousandsticks** and **Final Score**.

### **AMERICAN TURF QUOTES**

**Flavien Prat (Jockey, Stark Contrast, winner)** – “My only instructions were to get him in a good spot. I did that. He’s a good horse; he’s a very good horse.”

**Michael McCarthy (Trainer, Stark Contrast, winner)** – “I can’t tell you how highly I thought about this horse. He got a little sick on us over the winter. We were able to reroute and go to the Jeff Ruby Steaks. Flavien (Prat) speaks for himself and he gave him a great trip. Mr. and Mrs. Amerman are not here today but I really wish they were.”

**Jose Ortiz (Jockey, Remember Mamba, second)** – “It was a difficult post position from the 12. I was way out there and I dropped back further than I wanted to. I wanted to save ground and had an OK trip but in the first turn, I lost my chance to win. The winner is really nice. My horse will improve with distance like the Belmont Derby.

**Tyler Gaffalione (Jockey, Honey Dutch, third)** – “He was moving really well turning for him and thought we had a chance to win but once I saw the winner coming at me, I knew I might in trouble. It was a great effort though.”

### **ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK**

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